

Dear Friend,

When you spend your hard-earned dollars buying turkeys this Thanksgiving, I believe you have a right to know exactly what's in those turkeys. This week, I announced legislation that would force the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to ban the use of arsenic in America's poultry products.

I've recently uncovered troubling scientific reports that roxarsone, an arsenic-containing drug, is widely used in poultry production. Arsenic is a known carcinogen that has also been linked to diabetes and other severe health problems. Corporations use this drug mainly just to grow poultry artificially faster and to make animal meat look pink in the supermarket freezer, despite roxarsone's long-term impact on human health.

No family on Long Island should have to wonder if their Thanksgiving dinner is going to be part of a troubling long-term pattern of unhealthy and unnecessary exposure to a dangerous chemical. That's why I've introduced legislation to keep your poultry drug-free. My "Poison-Free Poultry Act" (H.R. 3624) would ban the use of roxarsone in poultry feed so corporations can't put this poison in our food or our environment just to make a small profit.

The FDA says it relies on data that arsenic in poultry is safe. But the most recent FDA data is from the 1950s. The science has changed, the evidence has changed, the research has changed. Only the bureaucracy remains the same!

So how can you be sure that your turkey is safe for you and your family? For now, the best way that you can protect yourself from roxarsone and other harmful additives is to buy a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) certified organic turkey, available in many supermarkets. By definition, those turkeys will be roxarsone-free. If you can't do that this year, eating in moderation is always a sensible alternative. (The average American will consume sixty pounds of poultry in a given year!)

In the meantime, I will keep working to protect Long Island consumers and families from abuses and rip-offs by the special interests. For more information on the Poison-Free Poultry Act, you can visit my website at <http://israel.house.gov>.

Sincerely,

Steve Israel  
Member of Congress